



The Insider

www.senate.mi.gov/switalski

Inside State Politics with State Senator Mickey Switalski Senate District 10

November 10, 2005

Welcome to the electronic version of *The Insider*. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support and for giving me an opportunity to represent you in the Michigan Senate. It is my sincere hope that this bi-weekly e-newsletter will keep you informed of the happenings in Lansing while staying true to the traditional style of *The Insider*. If you would like to contact me, please feel free to e-mail me at senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov or call me at my Roseville or Lansing office. You can also meet me in person during my constituent hours, coming to a library near you. Call my office and make an appointment or just walk in. See schedule for details.

Mickey's Blog: Pondering the Lessons of the 2005 Elections

Tuesday's election results contained significant and important reflections on the mood of voters not only nationally but also locally.

Locally, elections provided some real excitement and tight moments.

Many people justifiably criticized Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick for a series of poor choices and mishaps during his first term, but it is difficult to square criticism of his reelection with the voter's willingness to throw out three-term incumbent City Clerk Jackie Currie amid investigations into how her department handled elections. Retiring city councilwoman Maryann Mahaffey also finished in 18th place, with the voters respecting her wishes to retire and also with the realization that an expensive special election would have loomed.

Detroit voters were listening and well-informed of their choices, and acted accordingly.

Meanwhile, in Roseville, many political pundits were surprised that community activist James Goldwater decided to run against mayor pro tem and well-known Roseville councilman Harold Haugh to replace the retiring Gerald Alsip for mayor. With three city council spots up on the ballot, including one open due to the retirement of James Zelmanski, many felt that Mr. Goldwater had a better chance there. Incumbents Irene Kepler and Bill Shoemaker kept their seats, while Sam Aiuto secured the third spot. With Councilman Haugh winning the mayorship, he will vacate his council seat. The opening will be filled by appointment of the city council.

In Utica, Mayor Jackie Noonan ran unopposed and incumbents Ken Sikora, Vic Marchione and Russell Barthelmeh returned to the council.

Meanwhile in Sterling Heights, Mayor Richard Notte also ran unopposed. The results from Sterling Heights did reflect an interesting tone, with the majority of the city council returning with the exception of Steve Rice. Although innocent until proven guilty, voters chose to replace Rice with challenger Yvonne Knaiz. Sterling Heights voters also overwhelmingly rejected an effort to extend the terms of city council members from two to four years. Despite many townships and cities routinely having four-year terms (including Clinton Township, Roseville, and Utica), residents of Sterling Heights opted by more than a two-thirds majority to keep tight control over their elections and over their city officials.

With the economy struggling and jobs hard to come by, taxpayers often vote their pocketbooks. This comes often at a detriment to local millages. However, there comes a point where voters feel that in order to maintain the quality of their city's services, the status quo is not enough and an increase is justified. Case in point is Eastpointe. Voters this week passed a five-year, \$7 million public safety millage that would cost the average taxpayer in a \$100,000 home an additional \$350 per year. However, the consequences of not supporting the millage were worse. During the primary, Eastpointe voters shot down the same millage request by 100 votes. The City Council responded by closing its senior center and parks and recreation department, closing City Hall on Fridays and laying off people in the police and fire department. The residents realized this was the wrong choice for their city, and therefore, the City Council decided to put this issue back on November's ballot. As a result, the majority of Eastpointe residents voted for it on Election Day and it passed. The message was sent that Eastpointe needed and wanted more services and their citizens were willing to pay for it.

One last comment on the elections. Two current legislators were elected to serve as mayors of their respective hometowns. State Senator Virg Bernero was elected mayor of Lansing and State Representative Clarence Phillips as mayor of Pontiac. Finally, 18-year old Michael Sessions was elected mayor of Hillsdale as a write-in candidate. He will graduate from high school this spring.

Mickey's TV Insider Show

Check out my TV Insider Show coming to a television station near you. Watch me interview local guests about politics, life, issues and concerns to our district.

Sterling Heights

Every Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m.
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Utica

Every Wednesday at 9 a.m.
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Clinton Township

Last week of every month- Sat thru Thurs
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Roseville

Various Times
(Comcast Channel 18)

*Please note that Sterling Heights/Utica/Clinton Township will show the TV Insider Show on Comcast Channel 5 and Wide Open West Channel 10. Clinton Township will air the TV Insider Show at various times during the last week of every month. Roseville can see the TV Insider Show on Comcast Channel 18.

Coffee Hours

*Please note that since the District Office is in Roseville, I do not have set coffee hours in Roseville. However, I encourage you to visit the Roseville office. We even have a coffee pot. Everyone is welcome to attend the coffee hours and discuss their issues and concerns. **Due to the upcoming Holiday Season, future Coffee Hours will be announced in future editions of The Insider. Stay tuned for updates.**

Contact My Office

Website: <http://www.senate.mi.gov/switalski>

Email: senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov

Lansing Office

Senator Mickey Switalski
Senate District 10
410 Farnum
PO Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909

(866)303-0110 toll free
(517)373-7315
Fax-(517)373-3126

District Office

28311 Utica Road
Roseville, MI 48066

Monday through Friday
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

(586)774-2430
Fax-(586)774-0012